

DISASTROUS NEW YORK FIRE.

The Big Western Union Building Badly Damaged by the Flames.

MIRACULOUS ESCAPES FROM DEATH.

A Panic Among the Employees, but All of Them Safely Taken from the Burning Structure by Brave Firemen.

New York, July 18.—The Western Union telegraph building caught fire at 7 o'clock this morning. The distributing room on the fifth floor, the operating room on the floor above, the Associated press rooms and restaurant on the seventh floor, were completely destroyed. Seven lives were miraculously saved.

A few minutes before 7 o'clock the operators began arriving to go to work. About fifty men and young women had reached the operating room. A messenger boy saw a puff of smoke under a table in the distributing room on the floor below the operating room. He scarcely had time to investigate the cause when the wooden table was in flames and the fire spreading with lightning rapidity. He rushed up stairs to notify the new arrivals that the building was on fire.

They were compelled to go through the distributing room to get down stairs. A panic was the result. The women screamed and the men rushed pell mell down stairs to escape the flames, which in less than two minutes spread almost over the entire distributing room, burning up telegraph instruments and cables as if so much tinder.

The entire room when the panic-stricken crowd passed through it was filled with dense, stifling smoke. They fell over each other in their wild efforts to reach a place of safety.

As soon as the smoke was noticed Night Messenger Tobin cried out in a moment all the men in the room jumped for the hand grenades which hung above the walls. They began to throw down the hole where the flames were, and the men rushed pell mell down stairs to escape the flames, which in less than two minutes spread almost over the entire distributing room, burning up telegraph instruments and cables as if so much tinder.

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associated press will use the executive room on the fifth floor and such other rooms as can be had in the neighborhood.

The fire burned about half an hour and no dispatches have been received this morning from Fire Island, Sandy Hook or quarantine. The police estimate of the loss on the building and fixtures is \$25,000.

The Associated press loss instruments, typewriters, furniture and all its books, papers, despatches dating from 1848, and a valuable reference library, this loss is irreparable. All the material for the history of the growth of the press in America, contained in letter books and files, is destroyed and can never be replaced. The money value is estimated at \$15,000. There is no insurance. Hon. William Henry Smith, general manager, is a heavy loser by the destruction of his books and papers, many of which cannot be duplicated.

By the fire the commercial exchanges were completely shut off from all telegraphic connections. The cotton, coffee and produce exchanges depend on the Western Union company to distribute their quotations over telegraphs. This caused a complete suspension of the ticker service and brought business almost to a standstill in the exchange. In addition all connections outside the city are cut off and the public, grain and cotton cables were also lost through the cutting off of wires. The suspension of telegraphic facilities had a worse effect than the blizzard of 1888.

A Big Liverpool Blaze.

LONDON, July 18.—The Manchester canal company's wharf in Liverpool, burned today. An enormous quantity of cotton, grain and flour was consumed. Loss \$300,000.

AFTER EIGHTEEN YEARS.

A Convict at Chester Confesses to an Old Murder.

VANDALIA, Ill., July 18.—Penitentiary Commissioner J. B. Brown, of this city, while on a recent visit to the southern Illinois penitentiary, at Chester, came in possession of the following interesting facts:

The first convict sent to the penitentiary by the name of Davis, sentenced for ten years, from White county, was the cell-mate of one Charles Henderson, a former resident of this (Fayette) county, and well remembered by the people of Vandalia. Henderson is now serving a ten years' sentence from Christian county on an inhuman crime. Some time ago he was taken sick in prison, and thinking he was going to die, he confessed to the following facts:

He was a convict in the penitentiary for ten years, from White county, was the cell-mate of one Charles Henderson, a former resident of this (Fayette) county, and well remembered by the people of Vandalia. Henderson is now serving a ten years' sentence from Christian county on an inhuman crime. Some time ago he was taken sick in prison, and thinking he was going to die, he confessed to the following facts:

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COUNTING OUR POPULATION.

Rapid Progress Being Made in the Work by the Census Bureau.

THE GATHERING OF MORTGAGE STATISTICS.

Reports from Supervisors Already Received Indicate That Very Little Difficulty Was Experienced in That Particular.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 18.—The progress of the work of the population census is being made with rapidity, and day after day the capacity of the counting division is increased, until now, with a high force on every evening, the division is enabled to tabulate the returns at the rate of 2,500,000 names a day. This rate, if kept up, will secure the count of the total population within the next three weeks, and preparations are already being made for the introduction into congress of an appropriation bill.

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question was today brought in the house after a brief squabble over the rule by which it was brought up and on Monday next the vote will be taken.

There are now three distinct propositions before the house—the Wilson bill, so-called, being the bill as it passed the senate, the substitute proposed from the judiciary committee, and the so-called "original package" defined and amended, by importers in any other form declared illegal. Which of these may be adopted or rejected, is a matter of great importance, and the subject will be very problematical. Changes of conviction are continually going on and members who a few days ago expressed themselves very confidently upon the subject are now all at sea as to how they will vote. It has been a day of surprises. When the rule for the consideration of the bill was reported at the clerk's desk it was somewhat of a surprise that the contest would develop as one between the views embodied in the amendment reported from the judiciary committee and the substitute reported by Mr. Adams, so strong was the feeling that Judge Taylor, chairman of the committee, and Mr. Adams were recognized as controlling influences. During the debate of the subject became manifest, however, that the committee substitute would have but few friends as being too sweeping in character and involving too much of a change in the status of the states by congress. It is now a thing which that body cannot do. The contest, therefore, promises to be one of a different kind. It is not the Adams and the committee substitute. Between these the divergence is great. The former proposes to make state regulations attach the moment the direct tax is levied, and the latter allows it to come in and be a subject of one sale in a defined original package before local law attaches.

The original package bill was then taken up. Mr. E. B. Taylor said that never had such a blow been given state rights as by a declaration that under the constitution citizens of a foreign state might take into another state any property that was subject to and there sell it without liability of taxation or burden on the state. He said that the bill would be a declaration of the power of congress to prohibit the importation of intoxicating liquors it could exclude tobacco, and it could go further than guaranteeing the health and morals of its citizens, it could protect its own products against those of other states. It would be better to amend the constitution than to do it by these makeshifts.

Mr. Adams of Texas said that if Iowa could prohibit the importation of intoxicating liquors it could exclude tobacco, and it could go further than guaranteeing the health and morals of its citizens, it could protect its own products against those of other states. It would be better to amend the constitution than to do it by these makeshifts.

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CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

The House Takes Up the Original Package Bill for Consideration.

QUITE A LONG DEBATE ON THE MEASURE.

The Senate Considers the Sundry Civil Appropriation Bill and Reagan and Stewart Have a Lively Spat.

WASHINGTON, July 18.—In the house today Mr. Cannon of Illinois, from the committee on rules, submitted a resolution providing that the house shall immediately proceed to consideration of the original package bill, the previous question to be considered as ordered. Monday, after the reading of the journal, and that the house shall consider the bankrupt bill, the previous question to be considered as ordered Wednesday, after the reading of the journal.

The house decided to consider the resolution. After some debate the resolution was modified so as to provide that the appropriation bill shall not interfere with the consideration of the two bills, and the resolution was then passed.

The original package bill was then taken up. Mr. E. B. Taylor said that never had such a blow been given state rights as by a declaration that under the constitution citizens of a foreign state might take into another state any property that was subject to and there sell it without liability of taxation or burden on the state.

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A. T. GOSHERN.

He Will Probably Be Director General of the World's Fair.

Chicago Union Stock Yards Deal Has Been Consummated.

CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW WILL BE PRESIDENT.

The Old Owners Will Also Get a Big Slice of the \$2,000,000 Which Represents the New Company.

CHICAGO, July 18.—[Special Telegram to The Bee.]—The Evening Post says the great union stock yards deal has been closed. The old owners get \$1,000,000 for their property and a big slice of the \$2,000,000 which, in stock and bonds, represents the new company. The Pennsylvania company and the Vanderbilt interests have been harmonized. Mr. Depew will be the president of the new company, but J. N. McCullough will pilot the old company until the old stockholders have realized their price, and then the control will be turned over only upon certain guarantees which will place the Pennsylvania company on an equality with New York Central interests.

The prospectus of the new company is being changed very radically in some particulars and will be issued tomorrow. It sets forth the following directors of the company: Chauncey M. Depew, New York; John Quincy Adams, Boston; William J. Sewell, Camden; John Hoy, New York; Hugh C. Thompson, New York; J. B. Sherman, London; Edward J. Phelps, New York; Frederick H. Winslow, Chicago. The above directors will, it has been agreed, elect Chauncey M. Depew president of the company. This concern will, however, for the present, have no direct control over the Chicago Union Stock Yards, but will control the company's business.

The following directors of the Union stock yards company are: Chauncey M. Depew, New York; John Quincy Adams, Boston; William J. Sewell, Camden; John Hoy, New York; Hugh C. Thompson, New York; J. B. Sherman, London; Edward J. Phelps, New York; Frederick H. Winslow, Chicago. The above directors will, it has been agreed, elect Chauncey M. Depew president of the company. This concern will, however, for the present, have no direct control over the Chicago Union Stock Yards, but will control the company's business.

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SEVENTY-ONE ROUND MILLIONS.

Chicago Union Stock Yards Deal Has Been Consummated.

CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW WILL BE PRESIDENT.

The Old Owners Will Also Get a Big Slice of the \$2,000,000 Which Represents the New Company.

CHICAGO, July 18.—[Special Telegram to The Bee.]—The Evening Post says the great union stock yards deal has been closed. The old owners get \$1,000,000 for their property and a big slice of the \$2,000,000 which, in stock and bonds, represents the new company. The Pennsylvania company and the Vanderbilt interests have been harmonized. Mr. Depew will be the president of the new company, but J. N. McCullough will pilot the old company until the old stockholders have realized their price, and then the control will be turned over only upon certain guarantees which will place the Pennsylvania company on an equality with New York Central interests.

The prospectus of the new company is being changed very radically in some particulars and will be issued tomorrow. It sets forth the following directors of the company: Chauncey M. Depew, New York; John Quincy Adams, Boston; William J. Sewell, Camden; John Hoy, New York; Hugh C. Thompson, New York; J. B. Sherman, London; Edward J. Phelps, New York; Frederick H. Winslow, Chicago. The above directors will, it has been agreed, elect Chauncey M. Depew president of the company. This concern will, however, for the present, have no direct control over the Chicago Union Stock Yards, but will control the company's business.